

MAKING BASKETS FROM FERN STIPES.—In Taiwan there is a local industry making woven baskets from the stipes and rachises of ferns of the family Gleicheniaceae. These ferns are locally in abundant supply, being common and widely distributed in the mountainous areas of Taiwan. Plants of both the genera *Dicranopteris* and *Gleichenia* are in use.

The stipes and rachises of *Dicranopteris linearis* and *D. warburgii* are smooth and glossy and have a natural shiny brown color. After drying and removal of the leafy pinnae, they are ready for weaving without further treatment. Baskets made from them have a very artistic appearance (Fig. 1); they are used for carrying fruits and other light objects.

On the other hand in the case of *Gleichenia longissima* the outer cortex is peeled off by hand and the material used in weaving is therefore not the whole stipe and rachis but only the stelar part. This is rough and not smooth and shiny like the stems, but it is much more durable and can support a heavier load. It is dyed a brown color before the weaving so the finished baskets are less ornamental (Fig. 2).—EUGENE YU-FENG SHEN, *Department of Botany, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan, China.*

### Recent Fern Literature

The book "How to Know Ferns" by Frances T. Parsons, published in 1899, has always been a popular one with amateur botanists and fern students. Although the nomenclature is now out of date, the book still has a good deal of interest. It has been reprinted recently, and is available from Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York 14, N. Y. (\$1.25).—C. V. M.

A booklet (written in Spanish) contains 67 pages of keys to the families, genera and species of ferns and fern-allies native to Uruguay (LeGrand, Diego, and Atilio Lombardo. 1958. Pteridophyta (in Flora del Uruguay) 1–67). It provides brief but carefully worded descriptions of the taxa, and 32 full-page plates of line drawings illustrating most of the species included.





Fig. 1. BASKET WOVEN FROM WHOLE STIPES AND RACHISES OF *DICRANOPTERIS LINEARIS*.

Fig. 2. BASKET WOVEN FROM STELES OF STIPES AND RACHISES OF *GLEICHENIA LONGISSIMA*.